

**Quick Summary:** This section highlights various areas in Hertford where pedestrian improvements should be made. These areas will form the basis of the project recommendations in Section 8.

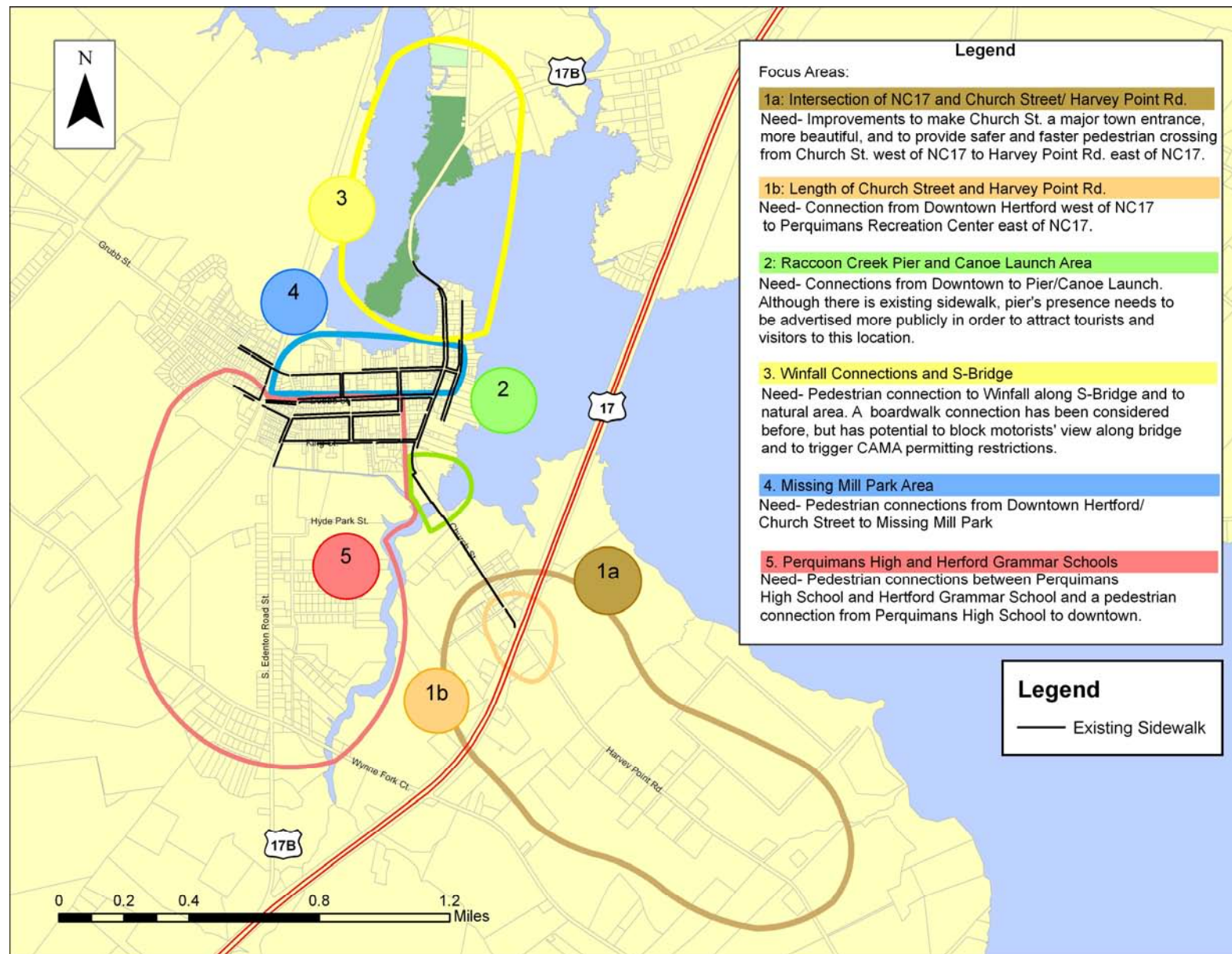
## Section 5. Focus Areas

### 5.1. Introduction

Through staff input, the stakeholder committee, and the public involvement process, several “Focus Areas” were developed within Hertford for concentrating pedestrian improvement projects. These areas were identified based on demand for facilities, safety need, and opportunities for connections. The Focus Areas are as follows:

1. Intersection of US 17 and Church Street/Harvey Point Road and points south
2. Perquimans High School and Hertford Grammar School
3. Missing Mill Park Area
4. Raccoon Creek Pier and Canoe Launch Area
5. Winfall Connections and S-Bridge

Figure 5-1 shows a map of Hertford and the general limits of each of the focus areas. The following paragraphs describe the focus areas, the pedestrian needs, and proposed recommendations for each location.



**Figure 5-1. Focus areas for targeted projects in the Pedestrian Plan.**

**5.2. Intersection of US 17 and Church Street/Harvey Point Road and Points South**

The intersection of US 17 and Church Street/Harvey Point Road, as well as the area south of this intersection on Harvey Point Road, has been identified in the *Hertford Corridor Plan Phase I: US 17 Study* as a critical pedestrian connection for linking the southeast part of town to Downtown Hertford. The area can best be divided into two subareas: the intersection of US 17 and Church Street/Harvey Point Road, and the length of Church Street and Harvey Point Road from Downtown Hertford to the Perquimans County Recreation Center. The following is a description of the needs and recommendations for each subarea:

**Intersection of US 17 and Church Street/Harvey Point Road***Need:*

- ◆ Improvements to make Church Street, a major town entrance, more beautiful and to provide safer and faster pedestrian crossing from Church Street west of US 17 to Harvey Point Road east of US 17

*Recommendations:*

- ◆ Pedestrian improvements and gateway/appearance enhancements at intersection for US 17/Church Street/Harvey Point Road

**Length of Church Street and Harvey Point Road***Need:*

- ◆ Connection from Downtown Hertford west of US 17 to Perquimans Recreation Center East of US 17

*Recommendations:*

- ◆ Examine corridor for pedestrian improvements. May consider a greenway/boardwalk along the waterfront or a wide sidewalk/multi-use path along US 17

**5.3. Perquimans High School and Hertford Grammar School**

Currently, connections between the Perquimans High School and Hertford Grammar School are blocked by the presence of Norfolk Southern train tracks and a lack of sidewalk connections. There is on-going work on a greenway/boardwalk in the Perquimans High School area along Jenny's Gut area. Potential connections include extending the greenway/boardwalk to Hertford Grammar School, or constructing an unrelated greenway between the two schools. Better connections between the two schools would promote more walking and bicycling to school, encouraging healthier lifestyles for students and parents.

**Need:**

- ◆ Pedestrian connections between Perquimans High School and Hertford Grammar School
- ◆ Pedestrian connection from Perquimans High School to Downtown
- ◆ Pedestrian connections from residential areas south of Grammar School and High School on S. Edenton Street Road and Wynne Fork Road

**Recommendation:**

- ◆ Consider greenway connection between High School and Grammar School to cross railroad tracks
- ◆ Consider greenway connection from Perquimans High School to downtown through the Jenny's Gut area/Hertford Cemetery
- ◆ Construct a sidewalk along South Edenton Street Road to connect existing and proposed neighborhoods along the road to the Town and the High School.
- ◆ Construct sidewalk along Wynne Fork Road and improve crossing US 17 and Wynne Fork Road



**Figure 5-2.** Perquimans High School is located along South Edenton Street Road in Hertford, within close proximity of Hertford Grammar School. There is limited sidewalk access between the two schools.



**Figure 5-3.** Missing Mill Park could be a major pedestrian destination in Town. It should have more signs to alert visitors of its presence and a crosswalk to connect it to the nearby senior center and tennis courts.



**Figure 5-4.** The Raccoon Creek Pier area should be highlighted to make it more attractive for visitors and residents.

#### 5.4. Missing Mill Park Area

Several comments from the Pedestrian Plan Survey and stakeholder input indicate that there is a lack of visibility for Missing Mill Park from the Downtown Hertford area along Church Street. In addition, sidewalk is missing along Grubb Street for easy access to the Park. Wayfinding improvements and better pedestrian facilities – including curb ramps, additional sidewalk, and crossings – would make the park a more popular destination for residents and visitors alike.

##### Need:

- ◆ Pedestrian connections from Downtown Hertford/Church Street to Missing Mill Park

##### Recommendations:

- ◆ Complete sidewalk to Missing Mill Park
- ◆ Provide a pedestrian crossing between Missing Mill Park and Tennis Courts/Senior Center
- ◆ Develop wayfinding signage to direct visitors to Missing Mill Park from Downtown
- ◆ Consider a greenway/boardwalk along riverfront from Missing Mill Park to Town Municipal Building and WRC Boat Ramp

#### 5.5. Raccoon Creek Pier and Canoe Launch Area

The Raccoon Creek Pier and Canoe Launch is a public boat launch located along Church Street at the westernmost edge of downtown Hertford. The pier and boat launch are located behind public housing, which can make the area seem secluded and isolated. The Town should highlight the presence of this pier to make it more attractive for visitors and residents to use it.

##### Need:

- ◆ Connections from Downtown to Pier/Canoe Launch. Although there is existing sidewalk, pier's presence needs to be advertised more publicly in order to attract tourists and visitors to this location

##### Recommendations:

- ◆ Consider developing wayfinding signage within downtown to direct visitors to Pier
- ◆ Consider connecting pier with potential greenway/boardwalk discussed in Focus Area 1

#### 5.6. Connections along the Causeway and S-Bridge

Currently, Hertford and Winfall, although within close proximity to each other, are disconnected due to the lack of pedestrian facilities over the S-bridge, which is the only roadway link between the two towns. Children in Winfall attend both the Perquimans County High School and Hertford Grammar School in Hertford, and many Hertford residents work in Winfall, and *vice-versa*. In



addition, a pedestrian connection between the two towns would serve as a nice attraction for visitors looking for a long scenic walk. There are two options for providing pedestrian facilities – constructing a pedestrian facility (sidewalk or boardwalk) along the S-bridge, or constructing an independent boardwalk/bridge for pedestrian connections unrelated to the S-bridge. Concerns about cost and that either of these options may restrict motorist’s view of the river have hindered progress on improvements in the past. In spite of these objections, a better pedestrian connection is needed between the two towns and should be considered.

**Need:**

- ◆ Pedestrian connection to Winfall along S-Bridge and to natural areas, schools. A boardwalk connection has been considered before, but has potential to block motorists’ view along bridge and to trigger CAMA permitting restrictions

**Recommendations:**

- ◆ Reconsider a boardwalk connection to Winfall along S-Bridge, or a new location
- ◆ Provide sidewalk along causeway/N. Church Street where possible beyond bridge
- ◆ Provide wayfinding signage to direct visitors and residents to Winfall as necessary

### 5.7. Other Proposed Projects

In addition to the focus areas discussed, some recommendations were developed that are not project related, and they are listed as follows. Specific actions to address these items are discussed more thoroughly in *Section 7: Program and Policy Recommendations*.

- ◆ Developing a formalized, signed Historic Walking Tour. Currently, there is an existing self-guided Historic Walking Tour which is marked by painted “turtle” symbols to indicate stops along the route. The Town should reinforce and support this tour, and could even consider developing a related bicycle tour.
- ◆ Other marketing ideas were discussed, including continuing to support the annual Hertford 5K run conducted in conjunction with the Annual Indian Summer Festival and creating a trail with mileage charts/markers for walkers and exercise stations
- ◆ There is an effort in the Town to develop a “blueway” along the Perquimans River. The Town could consider incorporating sidewalk/greenway connections to camping platforms and put-ins developed for the blueway.
- ◆ Identifying ways to make certain areas of the Town feel safer to visitors and residents through better lighting, maintenance, and appearance projects.

**5.8. Summary**

Each of the focus areas discussed in this section are key locations for pedestrians as either destinations, such as Raccoon Creek Pier, or access routes, such as Church Street to US 17. Section 8 identifies specific project improvements for each of the focus areas and an overall prioritization scheme. By addressing pedestrian improvements in each of these focus areas, the Town will create an overall more pedestrian-friendly environment for residents and visitors.